

Church News.

NOT DEAD NOR DYING.

Through inquiry made as to the truth of reports I learn that it is circulated abroad, that the old Berlin Charge of the Brethren church is about dead. This is the place and charge where in 1881 the famous Annual Meeting committee did its farcical work with Bishop Holsinger, and no doubt many like said committee would rejoice to hear that the Berlin Charge had died, hence the reports. What are the facts in the case? I will give them, and that all may know that I am in a position to do so, let me state that for ten years of the fourteen I have had pastoral charge. In these fourteen years the charge has liquidated nearly two thousand dollars of debts that it inherited from the German Baptist church besides have built three new church houses and made extensive repairs on old church properties and secured a good parsonage. It is true numerically we are not much stronger than when we first reorganized and are not likely to become much stronger numerically for by immigration we gain nothing but by emigration we are all the time losing much. The old hive is continually swarming, hence you find among the active workers in the Brethren church from Pennsylvania and California such as have at one time called this their church home. Death, the grim reaper, has not been idle these years and has claimed some forty of our members, among them some bright and shining lights. As pastor in charge, I have baptized more than three score myself, this does not include the scores that have been baptized here by Evangelists Replogle, Shaver, McFaden and pastors Holsinger, Cober, Kimmel, McFaden and Moomaw. At our early summer love-feasts recently held, we had crowded houses and better still crowded tables, more so than at any time in the past, over these feasts we had a few evening meetings and at these meetings received into church fellowship twenty-one by baptism, two by relation from the G. B's., and have several applicants that are to be baptized in the near future. We have three regular services every Lord's day, and these services are well attended. We are not turning the world upside down, nor making much noise about what we do. But our members are in love and union and I think in better shape for aggressive work in the Master's vineyard than at any time since reorganization. These are the facts, judge ye of the truthfulness or falsehood of the reports.

JOHN H. KNEPPER, pastor.
Berlin, Pa. July 15.

FROM PARKERSBURG, W. VA.

Home again and find all well, for which we thank our Heavenly Father. On the 6th I left home for Gerra Alta, W. Va., where we were expected to dedicate a new church house on the 7th. Arrived there in the evening and was met at the depot brother J. M. Freeland and taken to his kind and hospitable home, where we formed the acquaintance of his pleasant wife and children as well as that of Brother Freeland, as we had never before had the privilege of meeting. On the following Lord's day, the sun shown forth in all her splendor and gave us the assurance that we should have a fine day for the occasion. The time for the service being 10:30 o'clock, we arranged and started to the place which is a short distance beyond the cemetery and outside the town in a beautiful oak grove, and below a very fine mountain spring from which they expect to supply the baptistry, they contemplate putting in, in the near future. When we arrived at the place we found more than twice the amount of people that could be accommodate by their house which is a beautiful frame structure 30 x 40 feet, covered with slate. The inside is plastered and papered with beautiful paper, the shades of colors blending so beautifully, show the good taste of Brother Freeland. To add to the appearance of the room it is finished in hard wood finish. They wanted about four hundred and fifty dollars to clear the debt against the house. After we had made an effort to raise it and something like one hundred and forty dollars, half of which Brother Freeland subscribed himself, he then said, "You go on and dedicate the house. I want the Lord to have it and I will assume the debt and pay it." This will give him four hundred and over, besides the general superintending of the building. Give me all the members of the Brethren church who are equally able with Brother Freeland, and let their pocket-books be thus consecrated and I will build hundreds of houses where we so much need them. Their house is furnished with aisle and pulpit carpet, and a splendid organ. They had a fine choir which dispensed beautiful music for us and did it so cheerfully all through the meeting which we continued over two Sundays. I hope that you will pardon me for thus publicly thanking them for their service. The services were well attended all through. Good interest manifested. The immediate result was nine additions, seven of whom had been members of the German Baptist's. One baptized and one yet to be baptized. Thus closed one of the pleasant experiences of my life and we said farewell and

started for Green Co., Pa. When I arrived at Big Tree, I learned that brother Wm. Murray of Aleppo, had been telegraphing to my home and Terra Alta, also, requesting me to come to their place to conduct the funeral services of his dear wife who had fallen asleep in Christ, early Monday morning, July 14, 1895. She requested all her friends not to weep for her as she was going to rest with Christ and loved ones gone before. Sister Murray united with the church a number of years ago in a meeting I assisted in conducting when I was serving that church militant and we have no doubt has gone to join the church triumphant above. God bless Brother Murray and family in their bereavement and keep them and bring them at last to share with her in our Father's home above. We will go in a few days to Pittsburg to take charge of the church for an indefinite time. My friends will notice this change, and address me at Pittsburg, Pa.

HENRY WISE.

GLEANINGS FROM THE WAYSIDE.

We are pleased to state that the continued drought was broken Monday morning by a very acceptable shower. It was truly a shower of blessing for we needed it badly. Our work is moving on nicely in my charges. Three more were added to the church at Maple Grove by relation at our last appointment. This was very unexpected to us, but the church rejoices in the reception. It was our privilege, wife and I, to attend the concert given in the Opera House in North Manchester by the Bixler Sisters of the German Baptist church. It was well rendered and highly applauded by the audience. It seems as though the sisters understand their business. The way they manipulated the piano, organ, guitar and banjo—was amusing. If this is not progression where will we go to find it (consistency where art thou.)

On our way from Pleasant Hill to Indiana, brother Reuben Grubb hailed us at Bradford, informing us that father Yesty of Bloomer was quite sick and earnestly requested me to accompany him to see the sick brother at whose house they were going to have prayer-meeting that evening. When we arrived we found brother J. M. Jay of Pleasant Hill there. Unexpectedly we met, but the Lord directs. The aged brother requested to be anointed which was done. Brother Jay leading and I assisting. The spirit came in power and a Pentecostal shower of divine grace fell upon the service. The Lord be praised. Yours for salvation.

MM. W. SUMMERS.
North Manchester, Ind.